

CAPTAIN VERNE GIFFORD

Chief of Staff
First Coast Guard District



Captain Verne Gifford assumed the duties as the Chief of Staff for the First Coast Guard District in April 2013, where he serves under the District Commander to oversee all Coast Guard missions across eight Northeast states executed by 11,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary personnel; 30 cutters; 200 boats and 8 aircraft. Prior to that, he served as the Commander, Sector Southeastern New England from June 2010 to April 2013, where he fulfilled the roles of the Captain of the Port (COTP) and the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) for an area including fourteen Coast Guard units in Rhode Island, southeast Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

Other tours include Chief of the Prevention Division of the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, Louisiana; Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Valdez, Alaska; Executive Officer at Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas; Chief of Port Operations at Marine Safety Office New Orleans; Deputy Project Manager for the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement Project, a \$60 million modernization of the Coast Guard's primary operational information system; Operations Center Supervisor at Marine Safety Office New Orleans; Chief of the Port Safety Branch at the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans; Marine Safety Office Baltimore; and the Coast Guard Ice Breaker POLAR STAR.

Captain Gifford was raised in Buffalo, New York and Swampscott, Massachusetts. His education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics, with honors, from the Coast Guard Academy in 1987. He was the valedictorian of the University of Rhode Island's MBA class of 1999, and he earned a Master of Science Degree in Computer Science from the University of Rhode Island in 1999.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Department of Transportation 9-11 Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon.